from 2002 to 2006, more then 25 lakhs workers have been granted emigration clearance for jobs primarily in UAE, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain Maldives, Mauritius, Jordan, etc. Instances often come to notice about violation of terms & conditions of employment by the foreign employers, which are promptly attended to by the Indian Missions concerned who take up the grievances of workers for redressal with the employers as well as the local authorities. In cases involving complaints against registered Recruiting Agents, action is taken to suspend/cancled their Registration Certificates. In cases involving illegal/unregistered Recruiting Agents, penal action is taken for violation of the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983.

(c) A labour welfare wing with the Mission exists in most of the countries with large number of Indian emigrant workers. Many Missions have recommended strengthening of their wings.

Amendment in Indian Emigration Act

1863. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to amend the Indian Emigration Act, 1983 to enforce compliance of statutory standards by agents recruiting skilled and semi-skilled labour for placement abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have plans to extend the ECNA (Emigration Check Not Required) status to more countries than presently given; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) The Government has proposed amendments to Emigration Act, 1983 for the promotion and regulation of overseas employment and the protection and welfare of the emigrants. The amendments are under finalization.

(c) and (d) The Government has already placed 173 countries under Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR) category vide notification dated 28.12.2006. As a result, emigration check is required only in respect of the following 18 countries—Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, Oman,

Bahrain, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Afghanistan, Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Iraq (emigration banned).

Indians died in Gulf countries

1864. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian employees and workers who died in the gulf countries in the last three years;

(b) the details of compensation they received;

(c) the number and details of cases where compensation has not been received; and

(d) Government's action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) As per the information received from the Indian Missions in Gulf Countries Indian employees and workers died during the last three years, year-wise, are as follows:

Year	No. of death
2004	2697
2005	2940
2006	3310

The figure of deaths in Oman for the last three years is 1060.

(b) to (d) Out of these only 1553 cases were eligible for compensation. In about 643 cases compensation has been paid. The rest are pending and are being pursued by the Indian Missions. The Missions are pursuing these cases with the local authorities for expediting the cases.

Cancellation of visas of Indians in UK

1865. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UK Government has cancelled the visas of Indian professionals working there;